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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A GLOBAL PROJECT

(GLO/91/020) - A Global Musa Testing Programme
International Network for the Improvement of Bananas and Plantains (INIBAP)

Date of approval by the AC: 1/	29 January 1992
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$4 810 000
Source of funds:	Global IPF

Project background

The production of cooking Bananas and Plantains (B&P) for local consumption in the tropics represents about 90 percent of the total production. Export bananas are the remaining 10 percent. The local banana and plantain consumption is generally grown by small-scale farmers. During the last two decades, two diseases, black sigatoka (B.S.) and fusarium wilt, have disrupted the B&P production throughout the tropical world. By the early 1980s, the B.S. had spread over most of Latin America, much of Africa and S.E. Asia and the Pacific. Fusarium wilt (a soil born fungus) is present in many locations in Latin America and the Caribbean, in East Africa and in Asia. Chemical control of black sigatoka requires frequent treatment and is generally unavailable to small-scale farmers. There is no chemical control for fusarium wilt. Thus, developing resistance varieties to the diseases will be of great value to small-scale farmers.

Genetic improvement of B&P has only recently been initiated; and this promising material has been produced at FHIA (Honduras), EMBRAPA (Brazil), and IITA. Because of the diversity in host-pathogen-ecology and in fruit quality preference, new varieties need to be evaluated over a wide range of global conditions and locations.

Description of project

The purpose of the project is to develop a global programme for development and evaluation of new germplasm (hybrids) in order that small-scale farmers can replace susceptible banana and plantain cultivars by resistant cultivars that meet local consumer preference. The project will also increase the capacity of national organizations to organize and to carry out appropriate research on local banana and plantain, and specifically strengthen local genetic improvement programmes.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.